

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01116 291246Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-07

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P 291002Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7116

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON VISIT

1. EVENING FEBRUARY 28, CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, KING'S YOUNGEST BROTHER, AND NOW REGENT IN KING'S ABSENCE, GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME. HE TOLD ME THAT HE NOTED SECRETARY SIMON WAS IN THE AREA AND WONDERED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE SOME TIME ON HIS SCHEUDULE TO VISIT JORDAN.

2. I TOLD CROWN PRINCE THAT I HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRIME MINISTER ON QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH CLEARANCE FOR THE SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT. FROM THE COMMUNICATION I HAD HAD WITH WASHINGTON, IT DID NOT APPEAR, I SAID, THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE TIME TO STOP IN JORDAN DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE AREA. CROWN PRINCE SAID THAT IF TIME LATER DEVELOPS, HE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO SEE SECRETARY SIMON HERE. I TOLD HASSAN I WOULD LET WASHINGTON KNOW OF HIS PERSONAL INTEREST.

3. FROM PAST COMMUNICATIONS ON SUBJECT: I ASSUME THERE IS NO TIME ON SECRETARY SIMON'S SCHEDULE FOR EVEN A SHORT STOPOVER HERE, ALTHOUGH THAT QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY ADDRESSED IN CABLES TO ME. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, I DID NOT LEAVE HASSAN WITH MUCH HOPE THAT ANYTHING COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE AND WE, OF COURSE, WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF A VISIT COULD BE WORKED OUT. PICKERING

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01116 291246Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, VISITS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN01116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760076-1045
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976021/aaaaaaer.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY SIMON VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, JO, US, (SIMON, WILLIAM E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006